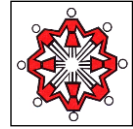




Issue 3



St. Benedict's Newsletter 29th November 2018

Environment

St. Benedict's has been successful in being selected as a finalist in the Global High Schools category for Europe and Central Asia region of the Zayed Sustainability Prize. The prize would help the school to become more sustainable by altering the energy we use, lighting systems and possibly looking at collecting rain water to use around the school.

Our entry has successfully passed two of the three stages in the evaluation process. This is a significant achievement in itself and has given St. Benedict's worldwide recognition of the work we do with our children on the environment and we can do to look after the world around us. The winners' identities will be announced at the annual awards ceremony on 14th January 2019 during the opening of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability week. In the garden at this time of year, the children have been busy planting onions and garlic before the ground gets too hard with frost. We have also been putting food out for the birds as at this time of year, many of the berries have fallen from the trees and shrubs, making food harder to find for birds. You can help in your garden by putting out any crushed up cereal for the birds, small pieces of fruit and seeds if you have any.

Parking

We have been working with West Midlands Police to improve the safety of our children. Two drivers so far have received fines of **£100** and three points on their licence for parking illegally. Please help us keep our children safe – **do not** park on the yellow zigzag lines.

Reception Applications - Reminder

There is still time for you to complete your application for your Nursery child to start in Reception in September 2019. The closing date is 15th January 2019. We will be available in Nursery week commencing 8th January to help with applications. In the meantime, should you wish to make an application on your own, please visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/draft_apply_for_reception_primary_school. You have until the end of the year to make an application and assistance is available via the school office if you need it.

Attendance

Could we please remind you that, if your child will be absent from school for any reason, you **MUST** contact school to let us know for every day of absence. If we do not hear from you regarding your child's absence your child will receive an unauthorised mark. Birmingham City Council have issued fines for parents at St. Benedict's Primary School for leave during term time and unauthorised absences. This can be avoided by booking holidays and trips during the 13 week school holidays. Family emergencies are dealt with on a case by case basis and you will need to complete a leave request from the school office.

Governor Spot

We have had a busy week on Governance helping the school with the plans for our growth to Primary School. Governors remain strategic in their support of the school leadership team and are always on hand to provide help and assistance where needed. We have been lucky in our recruitment and will hopefully have a full board of governors before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has applied and joined the governors over the last twelve months. It really has been worth it.

Parent Café/Community Room Events

We had a very successful drop in session with Narthex who were able to help lots of families with financial concerns. We look forward to a second visit in the near future. Watch out for messages via SchoolPing.

Family Learning with Reception and Year 1 will be starting after the Christmas holidays. Look out for Environmental and First Aid workshops that will also be running after the holidays.

We will be running ESOL classes for beginners after the holidays, if you are interested, please register with Syra Butler in the community room.

Things you should know

- Year 3 door - can we remind parents that Year 3 children still need to come into school through the door in the quiet garden? Please do not bring your Year 3 child into school with a younger sibling and send them through the hall. Thank you.
- Cold weather - with winter quickly arriving, can we please ask that you ensure that your child is sent to school with a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves? All clothing should have your child's name and class written on them. If any items are lost, please check the lost property basket by the main doors.
- SchoolPing – there are still a number of parents who have not registered on SchoolPing. If you can provide school with your email address, instructions can be sent straight to you. Any parents who are already on SchoolPing can help their friends get on would be appreciated.
- Spare clothes – if you have any uniform at home that your children have grown out of, would you be able to donate it to school as spare clothes? Sometimes, children have accidents and we need to change them. Unfortunately, our supply of spare clothes has almost gone and anything you can donate would be greatly accepted.
- Dinner money - can we please remind Year 3 parents that dinner money needs to be put in an envelope (you can buy these from the school office) with your child's name, class and amount? This needs to be paid on a Monday morning please. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Holidays

School will close at 12.45pm on Thursday 20th December and re-open on Tuesday 8th January at 8.35am.